providing a second deformable layer that defines a second surface and a second fluid vessel that contains a second volume of fluid;

selectively deforming at least one of the first and second surfaces, wherein selectively deforming at least one of the first and second surfaces includes at least one of:

manipulating the first volume of fluid to deform a first particular region of the first surface into a tactilely distinguishable formation of a first type; and

manipulating the second volume of fluid to deform a second particular region on the second surface into a tactilely distinguishable formation of a second type that substantially changes the shape of the device.

21. The method of claim **20**, wherein the step of manipulating the first volume of fluid includes configuring the first type of tactilely distinguishable formation to receive a user input.

22. The method of claim **21**, wherein the step of manipulating the second volume of fluid includes configuring the second type of tactilely distinguishable formation to provide information to the user.

23. The method of claim **22**, wherein configuring the second type of tactilely distinguishable formation to provide information includes deforming the second particular region to alert the user regarding the operation of the device.

24. The user interface system of claim **23**, wherein the device receives messages and wherein the step of manipulating the second volume of fluid to deform a second particular region includes manipulating the second volume of fluid to deform a second particular region to provide an alert for a received message.

25. The method of claim **22**, wherein configuring the second type of tactilely distinguishable formation to provide information includes deforming the second particular region to indicate the location of a particular feature of the device.

26. The method of claim **21**, wherein the step of manipulating the second volume of fluid includes configuring the second type of tactilely distinguishable formation to provide protection for the device.

27. The method of claim **26**, further comprising detecting the acceleration of the device and wherein the step of configuring the second type of tactilely distinguishable formation to provide protection for the device includes deforming the second particular region to provide a bumper for a face of the device when the acceleration of the device is detected to be substantially high.

28. The user interface system of claim **27**, further comprising detecting the acceleration of the device that results from falling and predicting the particular face closest to an impact from the device falling, and wherein the step of deforming the second particular region to provide a bumper includes manipulating the second volume of fluid to provide a bumper on the predicted face closest to the impact.

29. The method of claim **26**, further comprising detecting the proximity of a face of the device to an external surface, and wherein the step of configuring the second type of tactilely distinguishable formation to provide protection for the device includes deforming the second particular region to provide a bumper surface for a particular face of the device that is detected to be in substantial proximity to an external surface.

30. The method of claim **21**, wherein the step of manipulating the second volume of fluid includes configuring the second type of tactilely distinguishable formation to substantially affect the orientation of the device, further comprising detecting the angle of the device relative to an external surface, and wherein the step of actuating the manipulation of the first and second volumes of fluid includes actuating the manipulation of the second volume of fluid to deform a particular region of the second surface to substantially change the angle of the device relative to the external surface.

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